





A B R I E F

A C C O U N T

*Recd* OF THE *King*  
*Recd* *Book*

Province of *Pennsilvania*,

Lately Granted by the K I N G, under the  
Great Seal of *England*, to

*WILLIAM PENN,*

And his HEIRS and ASSIGNS.

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L O N D O N .

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RPJCB

# A Brief Account of the Province of *Pennsylvania*, lately Granted by the KING, under the Great Seal of *England*, to *William Penn*, and his Heirs and Assigns.

**S**INCE (by the good Providence of God, and the Favour of the King) a Country in *America* is fallen to my Lot, I thought it not less my Duty than my honest Interest, to give some publick Notice of it to the World, that those of our own and other Nations, that are inclin'd to Transport themselves or Families beyond the Seas, may find another Country added to their Choice; that if they shall happen to like the Place, Conditions and Government, (so far as the present Infancy of Things will allow us any Prospect) they may, if they please, fix with me in the Province hereafter described.

## I. The King's Title to this Country before he granted it.

It is the *Jus Gentium*, or Law of Nations, that whatever waste or uncult Country is the Discovery of any Prince, it is the Right of that Prince that was at the Charge of the Discovery: Now this Province is a Member of that Part of *America*, which the King of *England's* Ancestors have been at the Charge of Discovering, and which they and he have taken great Care to preserve and improve.

## II. William Penn's Title from the KING.

An Abstract of the P A T E N T Granted  
by the KING to William Penn, &c. the  
Fourth of March, 1681.

I. WE do Give and Grant for Us, Our Heirs  
and Successours (upon divers Considera-  
tions) to William Penn his Heirs and Assigis for  
ever all that Tract of Land in America with all  
Islands thereunto belonging That is to say from the  
beginning of the fortieth Degree of North-Latitude  
unto the forty third Degree of North Latitude whose  
Eastern Bounds from Twelve English Miles above  
New-Castle (alias Delaware Town) runs all along  
upon the Side of Delaware River.

II. Free and undisturb'd Use and Passage into and  
out of all Harbours Bays Waters Rivers Isles and  
Inlets belonging to or leading to the same Together  
with the Soyle Fields Woods Underwoods Moun-  
tains Hills Fenns Isles Lakes Rivers Waters Ri-  
vulets Bays and Inlets Situate in or belonging unto  
the Limits and Bounds aforesaid Together with all  
sorts of Fish Mines Metals, &c. To have and to  
hold to the only Behoof of the said William Penn his  
Heirs and Assigis for ever To be holden of us as of  
our Castle of Windsor in free and common Socage  
paying only two Beaver Skins yearly.

III. And of our further Grace we have thought it  
fit to erect and we do hereby erect the aforesaid Coun-  
try and Islands into a Province & Seigniory and do  
call it Pennsilvania and so from henceforth we will  
have it called.

IV. That

IV. That reposing special Confidence in the Wisdom and Justice of the said William Penn, we do grant to him and his Heirs and their Deputies for the good and happy Government thereof to Ordain and Enact and under his and their Seals to publish any Laws whatever for the publick Uses of the said Province by and with the Advice and Approbation of the Freeholders of the said Country or their Delegates so as they be not repugnant to the Law of this Realm and to the Faith and Allegiance due unto us by the legal Government thereof; and that he and they may call the said Freeholders or Delegates in such manner as to him and them seemeth best.

V. Full Power to the said William Penn, &c. to appoint Judges Lieutenant Justices Magistrates and Officers for what Causes soever and with what Power and in such Form as to him seems convenient Also to be able to Pardon and Abolish Crimes and Offences and to do all and every other thing that to the compleat Establishment of Justice unto Courts and Tribuuals forms of Judicature and manner of proceedings do belong and our pleasure is and so we enjoyn and require that such Laws and Proceedings shall be most absolute and available in Law and that all the Liege People of us our Heirs and Successors inviolably keep the same in those parts saving to us final Appeals.

VI. That the Laws for regulating property as well for the descent of Lands as enjoyment of Goods and Chattels and likewise as to Felonies shall be the same there as here in England until they shall be altered by the said William Penn his Heirs or Assigns and by the Freemen of the said Province or their Delegates or Deputies or the greater part of them.

VII. Furthermore that this new Colony may the more happily increase by the multitude of People re-

so long thither therefore we for us our Heirs and Successors do hereby grant Licence to all the Liege People present and future of us, &c. (excepting such as shall be specially forbidden) to Transport themselves and Families into the said Country there to inhabit and plant for the publick and their private Good.

VIII. Liberty to Transport what Goods or Commodities are not forbidden, paying here the Legal Customs due to us, &c.

IX. Power to divide the Country into Counties Hundreds and Towns, to incorporate Towns into Burroughs and Burroughs into Cities, to make Fairs and Markets with convenient Priviledges according to the merit of the Inhabitants or the fitness of the Place, And to do all other Thing or Things touching the Premises which to the said William Penn his Heirs or Assigns shall seem meet and requisite albeit they be such as of their own Nature might otherwise require a more special Commandment and Warrant, than in these Presents is expressed.

X. Liberty to import the Growth or Manufactures of that Province into England, paying here the Legal Duty.

XI. Power to erect Ports Harbours Creeks Havens Keys and other Places for Merchandizes, with such Jurisdiction and Priviledges as to the said William Penn, &c. shall seem expedient.

XII. Not to break the Acts of Navigation neither Governour nor Inhabitants upon the Penalties contained in the said Acts.

XIII. Not to be in League with any Prince or Country that is in War against Us our Heirs and Successors.

XIV. Power of Safety and Defence in such Way and Manner as to the said William Penn, &c. seems meet.

XV.

XV. Full Power to Assign Alien Grant Demise or Enfeoff of the Premises so many and such Parts and Parcels to those that are willing to purchase the same as the said William Penn thinks fit, To have and to hold to them the said Persons their Heirs or Successors in Fee simple or Fee tail or for Term of Life or Lives or Years to be held of the said William Penn, &c. as of the said Seigniory of Windfor by such Services Customs and Rents as shall seem fit to the said William Penn his Heirs and Assigus, and not immediately of Us our Heirs or Successors, and that the said Persons may take the Premises or any Parcel thereof of the said William Penn, &c. and the same hold to themselves their Heirs and Assigus, the Statute Quia emptores Terrarum in any wise notwithstanding.

XVI. We give and grant License to any of those Persons to whom the said William Penn, &c. has granted any Estate of Inheritance as aforesaid with the Consent of the said William Penn to erect any Parcel of Lands within the said Province into Mannors to hold Courts Baron and View of Frank-pledge, &c. by Themselves or Stewards.

XVII. Power to those Persons to grant others the same Tenures in Fee simple or otherwise to be held of the said Mannors respectively and upon all further Alienations the Land to be held of the Man-  
nor that it held of before the Alienation.

XVIII. We do Covenant and grant to and with the said William Penn his Heirs and Assigus that we will not set or make any Custom or other Taxation upon the Inhabitants of the said Province upon Lands Houses Goods Chattels or Merchandizes except with the Consent of the Inhabitants and Gover-  
nour.

XIX. Power to the Bishop of London to send over a Minister, if desired by any Twenty Persons inhabiting in that Province.

XX. A Charge that no Officers nor Ministers of Us our Heirs and Successors do presume at any Time to attempt any Thing to the contrary of the Premises or in any sort withstand the same but that they be at all Times aiding to the said William Penn and his Heirs and to the Inhabitants and Merchants their Factors and Assigns in the full Use and Benefit of this our Charter.

XXI. And if any Doubts or Questions shall hereafter arise about the true Sense or Meaning of any Word Clause or Sentence contained in this our Charter We Will Ordain and Command that at all Times and in all Things such Interpretation be made thereof and allowed in any of our Courts whatsoever as shall be adjudged most advantageous and favourable unto the said William Penn his Heirs and Assigns so as it be not against the Faith and Allegiance due to Us our Heirs and Successors.

In Witness whereof we have caused our Letters to be made Patents. Witness our self at Westminster, &c.

The King's DECLARATION to the Inhabitants and Planters of the Province of Pennsylvania.

CHARLES R.

W<sup>H</sup>ereas His Majesty in Consideration of the great Merit and faithful Services of Sir William Penn deceased, and for divers other good Causes Him thereunto moving, hath been graciously pleased by Letters Patents bearing Date the Fourth Day of March last past, to Give and Grant unto William Penn

Penn Esquire, Son and Heir of the said Sir William Penn, all that Tract of Land in America, called by the Name of Pennsylvania, as the same is bounded on the East by Delaware River, from Twelve Miles distance Northwards of New-Castle Town, unto the three and fortieh Degree of Northern Latitude, if the said River doth extend so far Northwards, and if the said River shall not extend so far Northward, then by the said River so far as it doth extend: And from the Head of the said River the Eastern Bounds to be determined by a Meridian Line to be drawn from the Head of the said River unto the said Three and fortieh Degree, the said Province to extend Westward Five Degrees in Longitude, to be computed from the said Eastern Bounds, and to be bounded on the North by the Beginning of the Three and fortieh Degree of Northern Latitude, and on the South by a Circle drawn at Twelve Miles Distance from New-Castle Northwards, and Westwards unto the Beginning of the fortieh Degree of Northern Latitude, and then by a strait Line Westwards to the Limit of Longitude above-mentioned, together with all Powers, Prehemiueces, and Jurisdictions necessary for the Government of the said Province, as by the said Letters Patents, Reference being thereunto had, doth more at large appear.

His Majesty doth therefore hereby publish and Declare his Royal Will and Pleasure, That all Persons Setled or Inhabiting within the Limits of the said Province, do yield all due Obedience to the said William Penn, His Heirs and Assigns, as absolute Proprietaries and Governors thereof, as also to the Deputy or Deputies, Agents or Lieutenants, Lawfully Commissionated by him or them, according to the Powers and Authorities Granted by the said Letters Pa-

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tents : Wherewith his Majesty expects and requires  
a ready Complyance from all Persons whom it may  
concern, as they tender his Majesty's Displeasure.

Given at the Court at Whitehall the Second day of April,  
1681. In the Three and thirtieth Year of our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command,

C O N W A Y .

### III. The Reason of the Grant.

The Reason and Ground of this Grant from the King to him and his Heirs, &c. was his Petition to the King, in which he set forth, *His Father's Services, his own Sufferings and Losses in relation to his Father's Estate*; and lastly, *his long and costly Attendance without Success*: in Right and Consideration of which, the King was graciously pleased to make the aforesaid Grant; to which Title, the said W. Penn adds that of the *Natives by Purchase from them*.

### IV. Of the Country and its Produce.

It lies 600 Miles South of the Latitude of England; and as it is of the same side of the Line, so it is about the same Degree with Montpelier in France, or Naples in Italy: The Air is generally clear and sweet; the Summer is longer and hotter, and Winter shorter and sometimes colder than in England: The Soil is said to be as good as any in those Parts. It commonly produceth Oak, Cedar, Mulberry, Chesnut, Walnut, Fir, Cyprus, Ash, Beech, Poplar, Sassafras, Medler, Plumbs, Grapes, Peaches, Strawberries, Huckleberries, Cranberries, Hops, &c. English Fruit takes kindly, and produceth suddenly and plentifully: The Woods are furnished with Store.

Store of Wild Fowl, as *Turkeys, Pheasants, Heath Cocks, Partridges, Pidgeons, &c.* The Earth well Watered with Springs and Rivers, and the Rivers stored with Fish, as *Sturgeons, Sheepheads, Catfish, Eels*, and abundance more: With Fowl, as *Swans, Grey and White Geese, Duck, Mallard, &c.* The Corn of the Country used by the Indians, produceth 400 fold, is good and hearty, both in Milk and made into Bread; the Price 2*s.* 6*d.* the Bushel: There is also good English Corn, as *Wheat, Barley, Rye, and Oats*; *Wheat* under 4*s.* the Bushel, *Barley* and *Rye* under 3*s.* the Bushel, *Oats* about 2*s.* the Bushel: There are also very good *Pease, and Beans* of several Sorts. The Beef is good, but Pork is very sweet: The Beef at 3*d.* the Pork at 2*d.* half-penny the Pound; Butter at 6*d.* a Pound; Peaches to eat, or make Drink of, at 8*d.* the Bushel; a *Cow and Calf* about the Spring of the Year, at 5*l.* a pair of *Oxen* at 10*l.* a good breeding *Sow* at 30*s.* a young good breeding *Mare* at 8*l.* But it is to be noted, that these foregoing Prices and Sums are to be paid with one half of the Value in English Goods, at the Rates they are bought at in England; for example, 4*l.* English pays for the breeding *Mare* that is rated at 8*l.* the like with the rest.

The Country also abounds with several Sorts of wild Creatures, as *Elkes, Deer, Beavers, Raccoons, Minks, Martins, Wild Cats, Otters, &c.* some of which are good Food, and cheap, as a fat Buck at 2*s.* English Goods, others of them are considerable for their Furs: The way of Traffick is to send to the Southern Plantations, *Corn, Beef, Pork, Fish, Sider and Pipestaves*; the Skins and Furs for England. The Conveniency that belongs to the Province in Point of Navigation is two-fold; the one  
thro'

thro' Chesapeak Bay, and the other Delaware Bay, by which Ships of great Burthen may come and Trade to the said Province.

#### V. Of the present Inhabitants.

That Part of the Country which is at all inhabited, is at the Head of Chesapeak Bay, and on the West side of Delaware River, they are by Nation Swedes, Dutch and English, who are capable of giving Entertainment to New Comers till they can provide for themselves.

#### VI. What the Country is believed capable of.

It is thought by several knowing Persons, that have travelled those Parts of America, and have been well acquainted with Places in Europe of the same Degree, that there may be Silk and Wine, if not Oyle; and for Flax, Hemp, Wood, Madder, Liquorish, Pot-asées, and Iron, there needs to be no Question.

#### VII. Of the Government.

1st. The Gouverour and Freemen have the Power of making Laws, so that no Law can be made, nor Money raised but by the People's Consent.

2ly. That the Rights of the People of England are in Force there.

3ly. That making no Law against Allegiance, they may make all Laws requisite for the Prosperity and Security of the said Province.

#### VIII. Of the Conditions.

The Province is cast at a penny an Acre; But he sets apart several Parcels which he calls Shares; these he sells; saving a Quit-rent, necessary for to secure the Title and Tenure: That is, whereas

5000 Acres (which makes a Share) comes (at a penny an Acre) to 20*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* yearly; for 100*l.* down he sells off that yearly Rent, 18*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* and reserves but 50*s.* which may be reduc'd as the Purchaser pleases, but something must be reserv'd for the Security of his Title. To which Shares so sold the Royalties proper to Manors in England, (as Hunting, Fowling, Fishing, with all common Mines, Minerals, and a Proportion of Royal Mines also, (if found within any ones Propriety) is affixed by the general Conditions and Concessions, to the Purchasers and their Heirs forever.

And that such as are not able to purchase, yet willing to go, and capable to pay their Passage, and their Servants, may not be excluded. It is hereby Declared, that every such Person, for himself, and Wife, and every Child, *Male or Female*, if sixteen Years of Age, shall have Right to take up at 1*d. per Acre*, Fifty Acres by the Head, to him and his Heirs forever, in lieu of Purchasing, which shall be by the Surveyor of the Country set out so soon as the said Person comes to take it up: And to encourage such Children and Servants to serve their Parents, Masters or Mistresses, the full Time for which they are engaged, diligently and faithfully. Every such Child or Servant, shall have Right to take up 50 Acres at but two Shillings *Quit-Rent* for ever, which makes him Freeholder of the Country.

#### IX. Persons fitteſt for Plantations.

Those Persons that Providence seems to have fitted for Plantations, are Industrious Husbandmen, and Laborious Handicrafts: As Carpenters, Shipwrights, Rope-makers, Smiths, Brick-makers, Weavers,

Weavers, Taylors, Tanners, Coopers, Millwrights, Joyners, Shoomakers, Turners, Potters, such as dress Flax, Hemp and Wool ; with many others.

It seems also a fit Place for younger Brothers, and Men of small Estates, who with the Industry of a few Servants, may in two or three Years time be plentifully accommodated ; Also all ingenious Men, that are Lovers of Planting, Gardening, and the like quiet and useful Imployments.

A Plantation seems a fit Place for those Ingenious Spirits, that being Low in the World, are much clog'd and oppressed about a Lively-Hood ; for the Means of Subsisting being easy there, they may have Time and Opportunity to gratify their Inclinations ; and thereby improve Science, and help Nurseries of People.

There are another Sort of Persons, not only fit for, but necessary in Plantations ; and that is, Men of Universal Spirits, that have an Eye to the Good of Posterity ; and that both understand and delight to promote good Discipline, and Just Government among a plain and well-intending People : Such Persons may find Room in Colonies, for their good Council and Contrivance, who are shut out from being of much Use or Service to great Nations, under settled Customs.

But they that go must wisely count the Cost, For they must either work themselves, or be able to employ others. A Winter goes before a Summer, and the first Work will be Country Labour, to clear Ground, and raise Provision ; other things by Degrees.

#### X. What is fit for the Journey, & first to be done there.

1st. The Passage for Men and Women is 5*l.* a Head ; for Children under Ten Years, 50*s.* Suck-ing

ing Children *Nothing*; for Freight of Goods 40 s.  
per Ton; but one Chest to every Passenger free.

*2ly.* The Goods fit to take with them for Use or Sale, are, all Utensils for Husbandry and Building, and Household-stuff; also all Sorts of Things for Apparel, as Cloth, Stuffs, Linnen, &c. wherein all that desire, may be more particularly informed by *Philip Ford*, at the *Hood and Scarf* in *Bow-lane* in *London*.

*Lastly,* Being by the Mercy of God safely arrived, be it in *October*, Two Men may clear as much Ground for Corn, as usuall brings by the following Harvest above Twenty-Quarters; in the meantime they must buy Corn, which they may have as aforesaid; and if they buy them two Cows, and two Breeding Sows; with what the *Indians* for a small Matter will bring in, of Fowl, Fish, and Venison (which is incredibly cheap, as a fat Buck for 2 s.) that, and their Industry will supply them. It is apprehended that 15 l. Stock for each Man (who is first well in Cloaths, and provided with fit working Tools for himself) will (by the Blessing of God) carry him thither, and keep him till his own Plantation will accommodate him. But all are most seriouly cautioned, how they proceed in the Disposal of themselves; 'Tis true, *The Earth is the Lord's and the Fulness thereof*; and it seems to many to be the Time wherein those desolate *Western* Parts of the World are to be planted, and have their Day, as *Asia*, *Africa* and *Europe* have had (of which there are divers Prophecies extant) yet let all have a reverend Regard to God's Providence in their Removal, and be serious in it, rather seeking the Comforts of Retirement, and Sufficiency for Life, (like the blessed Patriarchs of old) than Ease, Fulness, and Wealth.

And

And it is further advised, that all such as go would at least get the Permission, if not the good Liking of their near Relations ; for that is both Natural, and a Duty incumbent upon all : And by this Means will natural Affection be preserved, and a friendly and profitable Correspondence maintained between them. In all which, *God Almighty* (who is the Salvation of the Ends of the Earth) direct us, that his Blessings may attend our Honest Endeavours ; and then the Consequence of all our Undertakings, will be to the Glory of His Great Name, and the true Happiness of Us, and our Posterity. Amen.

WILLIAM PENN.

P O S T S C R I P T.

**W**hoever are desirous to be concern'd in this Province, they may be treated with, and further Satisfied, at Philip Ford's in Bow-lane in Cheap-side, and at Thomas Rudyard's or Benjamin Clark's in George-yard in Lombard-Street, London, where the Mapps of Pennsylvania are likewise to be sold : As also the Description belonging to the Maps ; and likewise the Articles, Settlement and Offices of the Free-Society of Traders in Pennsylvania, agreed upon by divers Merchants and others, for the better Improvement and Government of Trade in that Province.

T H E E N D.

*Robt. Tony his Book*

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